

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 692

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide additional assistance to rural and disadvantaged communities under the State water pollution control revolving loan fund program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 1995

Mr. CHAPMAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MANTON, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. FROST, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. WILSON, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. HEFNER), introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide additional assistance to rural and disadvantaged communities under the State water pollution control revolving loan fund program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Community
5 Wastewater Treatment Affordability Act of 1995”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY.**

2 (a) ACQUISITION OF LANDS, EASEMENTS, AND
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAYS.—Sections 601(a) and 603(c) of the
4 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381(a)
5 and 1383(c)) are each amended by inserting before “(2)”
6 the following: “including acquisition of lands, easements,
7 and rights-of-ways necessary for construction of a treat-
8 ment works,”.

9 (b) RURAL NONPROFIT WATER ASSOCIATION.—Sec-
10 tion 603(c)(1) of such Act is amended by inserting “or
11 any nonprofit corporation, association, or district eligible
12 for assistance to provide wastewater treatment and water
13 supply services to communities under section 306(a)(1) of
14 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
15 U.S.C. 1926(a)(1))” after “State agency”.

16 **SEC. 3. CAPITALIZATION GRANT AGREEMENTS.**

17 Section 602(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
18 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1382(b)) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
20 (9);

21 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
22 graph (10) and inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(11) the State will encourage the use of inno-
25 vative and cost-effective technologies in the construc-

1 tion of treatment works financed with assistance
2 provided from the fund.”.

3 **SEC. 4. TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) LOAN PROGRAM.—Section 603(d)(1) of the Fed-
5 eral Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(d)(1))
6 is amended—

7 (1) by inserting before the semicolon at the end
8 of subparagraph (A) the following: “and such loans
9 are made to rural and disadvantaged communities at
10 or below market interest rates, including interest
11 free loans and negative-interest loans (or the equiva-
12 lent of negative-interest loans), at terms not to ex-
13 ceed 40 years or the useful life of the project being
14 financed with the proceeds of the loan, whichever is
15 earlier”;

16 (2) in subparagraph (B) by inserting after
17 “completion” the following: “and, in the case of
18 loans to rural and disadvantaged communities, at
19 terms not to exceed 40 years after completion of the
20 project or the useful life of the project, whichever is
21 earlier”; and

22 (3) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
23 (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively, and
24 inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

1 “(C) not to exceed 15 percent of all loans
2 made from the water pollution control revolving
3 fund after the date of the enactment of this
4 subparagraph will be used to make negative-in-
5 terest loans to rural and disadvantaged commu-
6 nities under this paragraph;”.

7 (b) PLANNING GRANTS TO DISADVANTAGED COMMU-
8 NITIES.—Section 603(d) of such Act is further amended—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
10 (6);

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
12 graph (7) and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(8) for making grants to rural and disadvan-
15 taged communities to pay not to exceed 75 percent
16 of planning and predevelopment costs incurred by
17 such communities with respect to construction or im-
18 provement of treatment works without regard to
19 whether or not actual construction of the project is
20 carried out; except that amounts available for mak-
21 ing such grants in any fiscal year shall not be less
22 than 1 percent, and shall not exceed 2 percent, of
23 the Federal grant awards to the water pollution con-
24 trol revolving fund in such fiscal year and except

1 that the aggregate amount of such grants with re-
2 spect to any project shall not exceed \$75,000.”.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 603 of such Act is further
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this title, the following defini-
7 tions apply:

8 “(1) RURAL AND DISADVANTAGED COMMU-
9 NITIES.—The term ‘rural and disadvantaged com-
10 munities’ means a service area of a publicly owned
11 treatment works as defined by the concerned State.
12 Except as otherwise provided by the Administrator,
13 the term shall not include a service area which has
14 a population of 10,000 or more as determined by the
15 latest decennial census of the United States and the
16 residents of which have a median household income
17 of more than 75 percent of the national median
18 household income as determined by such census.

19 “(2) NEGATIVE INTEREST LOAN.—The term
20 ‘negative-interest loan’ means a loan made by a
21 State from its water pollution control revolving fund
22 to a rural and disadvantaged community pursuant to
23 section 603(d)(1) under which the interest rate is
24 zero percent per year and, in addition, the State for-
25 gives an amount of the principal of the loan not to

1 exceed 2 percent per year if the maximum total for-
2 giveness of principal does not exceed 20 percent of
3 the principal over the term of the loan.”.

4 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

5 Section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution
6 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(d)(7)) is amended by strik-
7 ing “except that” and all that follows through the period
8 and inserting “except that in a fiscal year such amounts
9 shall not exceed 4 percent of the total amount of funds
10 deposited into the fund in such fiscal year, including Fed-
11 eral and State funds and repayments of principal and in-
12 terest on loans made from the fund.”.

13 **SEC. 6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

14 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—Title VI of the Federal
15 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381–1387) is
16 amended by adding at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 608. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may make
19 grants to the National Rural Water Association, the Rural
20 Community Assistance Program, and the Small Flows
21 Clearinghouse and any other appropriately qualified orga-
22 nizations as determined by the Administrator to provide
23 training and technical assistance to rural and disadvan-
24 taged communities with respect to the planning, construc-
25 tion, and operation of treatment works.

1 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$15,000,000 per fiscal year for each of fiscal years 1995
4 through 1999. Such funds shall remain available until ex-
5 pended.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 607 of
7 such Act (33 U.S.C. 1387) is amended by inserting
8 “(other than section 608)” after “title”.

○